AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed document handling system for carrying out jobs, where jobs are carried out by services distributed over a network and where a job leads to a product, the system comprising:

a pool of services, the services being distributed over a number of interconnected processing devices;

specifying means for entering by a user a job specification comprising product specifications specifying the product to be delivered by the job and specifications specifying circumstantial constraints without effect on the product, in considering selection from the pool of services; [[and]]

determining means for determining a path of services, the services being selected from the pool of services, wherein the path is suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the product specifications, and wherein the determining means is operable to take into account circumstantial constraints for that job;

user interface means for presenting the paths suitable to carry out the job;

user interface means for, after the paths have been presented, enabling modification of the job specification by the user; and

means for, upon modification of the job specification, involving the determining means again for determining a path of services, based on the modified job specification.

2. (Original) The distributed document handling system according to claim 1, wherein:

a circumstantial constraint defines a limit in an ordered range; the system also comprises:

means for ranking paths suitable to carry out the job in accordance with the ordered range

of the circumstantial constraint; and

user interface means for selection by the user of a desired job specification from a ranked

list of job specifications based on the ranked paths.

3.   (Original) The distributed document handling system according to claim 2, wherein

the system also comprises user interface means for selection by the user of the circumstantial

constraint to be used in the ranking of the paths.

4.   (Original) The distributed document handling system according to claim 2, wherein

the circumstantial constraint is a total price of the job to be carried out; and

the system also comprises means for calculating the total price from price attributes of

services included in a determined path.